

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer for analyzing whole blood which includes a quality control device, said blood analyzer comprising:

means for analyzing patient blood samples;

a quality control device including,

means for storing by refrigeration control bloods,

means for restoring the control bloods to a temperature prescribed by a manufacturer of the control bloods,

means for stirring the control bloods for re-suspension of cells, and

means for sampling the control bloods,

wherein the means for stirring includes a tube support articulated about a hinge and configured to operate by inverting.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, wherein the means for storing control bloods includes ~~comprises~~ a specified number of tubes sealed by a bung and arranged in [[a]] the tube support in contact with a refrigeration block configured to adjust temperature and maintain an optimum temperature for storing the control bloods.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 20, wherein the refrigeration block is a Peltier effect refrigeration block.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 20, wherein the means for restoring the temperature of the control bloods includes the tube support configured to disconnect from the refrigeration block.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 21, wherein the means for restoring includes the Peltier effect refrigeration block configured to receive current which is interrupted for a specified period of time such that the temperature of the control bloods is restored.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 21, wherein the Peltier effect refrigeration block is controlled to be reset and maintain quality control to a utilization temperature according to specifications of the manufacturer.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer according to claim 20, wherein the hinge is means for stirring ~~includes the tube support articulated about a hinge of the~~ refrigeration block ~~and configured to operate by inverting~~.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 25, wherein an angle of inversion of the tube support is between 100° and 180°.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, wherein the means for stirring includes low-speed Vortex stirring means.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, wherein the means for sampling includes a needle configured to draw blood from tubes.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 28, wherein the needle is configured to be driven in a transverse movement over tubes of patient blood samples to be analyzed and the control bloods as well as over a counting block comprising mixing and rinsing tanks and is configured to be driven in a vertical movement to penetrate into the tubes by piercing bungs or by descending into the counting block comprising mixing and rinsing tanks to carry out rinsing or dilutions.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 29, wherein the bungs are configured to be pierced when the tubes on a support are in a high or low position.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, further comprising programmable processing means for checking that values obtained by passing through a quality control procedure correspond to limit values and expected values of the control blood.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 31, wherein the processing means triggers an alarm when the values obtained during running of the quality control procedure are outside the expected values.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 37, wherein the triggering unit triggers the quality control procedure either directly by an operator input, automatically, or via an external connection to a control unit.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, wherein transfer and analysis of data are affected via an internal or external network implementing standards of HL7, ASTM, or XML.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 20, wherein the tubes include barcodes, electronic chips, or magnetic labels for identifying and tracking the tubes.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, wherein the quality control device further includes a triggering unit which triggers a quality control procedure to determine whether the analyzer is functioning properly based on a comparison using the control bloods.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer for analyzing whole blood which includes a quality control device, said blood analyzer comprising:

- an analyzing unit which analyzes patient blood samples;
- a quality control device including,
 - a storing unit which stores, by refrigeration, control bloods,
 - a restoring unit which restores the control bloods to a temperature prescribed by a manufacturer of the control bloods,
 - a stirring unit which stirs the control bloods for re-suspension of cells, and
 - a sampling unit which samples the control bloods,

wherein the stirring unit includes a tube support articulated about a hinge and
configured to operate by inverting.